

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
June 25, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics	
	Number of Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive	
			Today	Total
Alameda	1,571	0	1	182
Amador	33	0	0	0
Butte	211	0	0	0
Calaveras	20	0	0	0
Colusa	27	0	0	0
Contra Costa	1,778	0	0	74
Del Norte	107	0	0	0
El Dorado	77	0	0	0
Fresno	862	0	0	0
Humboldt	91	0	0	0
Imperial	225	0	0	0
Kern	495	0	0	0
Kings	133	0	0	0
Lake	58	0	0	0
Los Angeles	5,346	0	0	0
Madera	202	0	0	0
Marin	178	0	0	13
Mariposa	53	0	0	0
Mendocino	28	0	0	0
Merced	294	0	0	0
Monterey	1,818	0	0	289
Napa	657	0	0	1
Orange	1,649	0	0	0
Placer	73	0	0	0
Plumas/Sierra	6	0	0	0
Riverside	1,792	0	0	0
Sacramento	1,550	0	0	0
San Benito	94	0	0	0
San Bernardino	1,150	0	0	0
San Diego	1,536	0	0	0
San Francisco	204	0	1	64
San Joaquin	480	0	0	0
San Luis Obispo	277	0	0	0
San Mateo	1,072	0	0	13
Santa Barbara	544	0	0	0
Santa Clara	1,952	0	0	9
Santa Cruz	3,321	0	63	3,921
Shasta	197	0	0	0
Siskiyou	287	0	0	0
Solano	231	0	0	0
Sonoma	275	0	0	0
Stanislaus	259	0	0	0

Sutter	110	0	0	0
Tehama	60	0	0	0
Trinity	79	0	0	0
Tulare	705	0	0	0
Tuolumne	25	0	0	0
Ventura	541	0	0	0
Yolo	171	0	0	0
Yuba	50	0	0	0
Total	32,954	0	65	4,556

- **Survey**

- Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in 51 counties.
- A total of 32,954 pheromone-baited traps have been deployed to date. Traps are placed in and around retail and production nurseries, at ports of entry, and in the open environment and are being inspected bi-weekly.
- Visual inspections of all nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any traps with confirmed LBAM are conducted for the presence of any life stages.

- **Identification and Diagnostics**

- Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
- A total of 4,556 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM. Most of the captures (99%), however, are from traps located in two specific geographical areas. The first area, representing 92% of all LBAM captures, encompasses southern Santa Cruz and northern Monterey counties. The second area, which represents approximately 7% of captures, includes contiguous portions of northwest Alameda, western Contra Costa, and northern San Francisco counties. The remaining 1% came from mostly single trap captures in Marin, Napa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.
- LBAM immature life stages, including larvae and pupae have been found in a total of 32 nurseries, cut flower or greenery farms in Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. Infested nurseries have the option to treat and be re-inspected as part of the regulatory requirements.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**

- APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand to provide recommendations on survey methods,

mitigation tools, and eradication strategies. The TWG toured the infested region on May 16 and concluded with a two-day meeting on May 17-18 in San Jose, California. The TWG forwarded to APHIS and CDFA a draft of the recommendations designed to provide short and long-term plans to contain, control, and eradicate LBAM in California. The recommendations are currently being reviewed by APHIS and CDFA.

- **Incident Command**

- A total of 112 personnel are on-site (82-CDFA/Counties; 30-APHIS) assuming various roles within the ICS structure.

- **Regulatory Actions**

- CDFA, APHIS, and County personnel continue to conduct inspections and certification of host commodities in the quarantine areas as required by State LBAM regulations and by the Federal Quarantine Order.
- To date, a total of 441 compliance agreements have been issued to establishments located within the quarantine area requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and other host materials.

- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**

- Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.

- **Treatment**

- Nurseries with host plants that are confirmed as infested with LBAM larvae or pupae have the option of treating with Chlorpyrifos or destroying infested plants.
- Weekly ground applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) began in Oakley (141 properties) on June 13-15 and in Napa (71 properties) on June 18-19.

Trade Update:

- APHIS informed trading partners of the LBAM finds in California. Additional reports were provided to Canada and Mexico in response to their requests for additional information.
- On May 24, Mexico suspended importation of certain LBAM host crops commodities – primarily fruits and nursery stock – from the quarantined counties in California and Hawaii and has required additional inspection and certification of commodities originating from outside quarantined counties.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced on Friday June 15 its LBAM requirements for host commodities exported to Canada. Details of the requirements are posted on the CFIA website at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/lbampbpb/lbampbppe.shtml>

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) and officials from CDFA, APHIS, and Counties continue to field questions from the press and the public regarding the LBAM finds and the regulatory framework.
- Public open house events were held in Oakley on June 10 and in Napa on June 12 to inform the communities of LBAM program activities.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed through morphological testing that the two samples submitted were, in fact, LBAM.
- APHIS and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California. APHIS. Also, APHIS issued a SPRO letter informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- CDFA established on April 20, 2007 a LBAM quarantine of at least 182 square miles in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara counties. The quarantine is expected to expand to include Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.
- APHIS issued a LBAM Federal Quarantine Order on May 2, 2007, requiring inspection and certification of all nursery stock and host commodities from eight counties in California, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia. Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- LBAM has a host range in excess of 120 plant genera in over 50 families, including nursery stock, cut flowers, stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.
- LBAM could cause an estimated \$133 million in crop damage and control costs if it spreads to agricultural production areas in California.